

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 TEL AV 10598 180917Z
ACTION SS-25

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AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
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AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
USCINCEUR VIR
DIA WASHDC

S E C R E T TEL AVIV 10598

EXDIS

MIL ADDRESSEES HANDLE AS SPECAT

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PBOR, MILI, LE, IS
SUBJECT: WATER, RIFLES AND ARTILLERY PIECES

REF: (A) BEIRUT 4697, (B) BEIRUT 4701

1. REF A STATES THAT DANY CHAMOUN HAS TOLD AMBASSADOR PARKER THAT ISRAELIS HAVE PLACED A WATER PIPE FROM QULAYAH AND ARE PIPING WATER INTO ISRAEL FROM THE HASBANI. OUR INFORMATION, WHICH IS BASED UPON EMBASSY OFFICER OBSERVATION AT METULLA AND UPON OFFICIAL GOI DOCUMENTS, IS THAT THE OPPOSITE IS TRUE -WATER IS BEING PUMPED FROM ISRAEL INTO SOUTHERN LEBANON. WATER DISTRIBUTION POINTS MAY BE FOUND IN ALL GOOD FENCE

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STATIONS. IN ADDITION, PIPELINES HAVE BEEN LAID FROM THE ISRAELI BORDER TO THE VILLAGES OF MARJAYOUN, ALMA ESH SHAB, DIR MIMS AND EL MARI, AND A PIPELINE IS IN THE PROCESS OF BEING LAID BETWEEN DOVEV AND RAMAISH.

2. REF A ALSO STATES THAT CHAMOUN CLAIMED ISRAELIS HAVE DELIVERED M16 RIFLES TO THE KATAEB (PHALANGISTS) IN QUANTITY.

GOI HAS PREVIOUSLY GIVEN US ASSURANCES THAT NO USG-PROVIDED WEAPONS HAVE BEEN PASSED TO THE CHRISTIANS. IN RESPONSE TO A SPECIFIC QUERY CONCERNING THE TRANSFER OF M16 RIFLES, AN IDF OFFICIAL HAS CONFIRMED TO ARMA THAT NO REPEAT NO M16 RIFLES HAVE BEEN PROVIDED TO THE CHRISTIANS.

3. REF B INDICATES THAT CHAMOUN'S AIDE, NABIL NOUJAIM, HAS REPORTED HE HAS SEEN SIX ARTILLERY PIECES WHICH THE ISRAELIS HAD DELIVERED TO BACHIR - "FOUR LONG BARRELED 122MM AND TWO SHORT BARRELED 122MM." WE ASSUME THESE ARE D-30 122MM FIELD GUNS AND M-1938 122MM HOWITZERS RESPECTIVELY. THESE WEAPONS ARE OF SOVIET ORIGIN AND WERE CAPTURED IN QUANTITY BY THE ISRAELIS IN PAST MIDDLE EAST WARS.

4. COMMENT. WE ARE AWARE THAT THERE ARE M16 RIFLES IN BEIRUT, AT LEAST SOME OF WHICH WERE PREVIOUSLY PROVIDED BY THE USG TO THE GOL. WE ASSUME THEY ARE ALSO AVAILABLE FROM VARIOUS INDEPENDENT ARMS DEALERS. WE ARE PREPARED HERE TO ACCEPT THE ISRAELI ASSURANCES THAT NONE HAVE BEEN PROVIDED FROM THEIR STOCKS. WE ARE EQUALLY PREPARED TO ACCEPT THAT THE 122MM GUNS AND HOWITZERS, AS WELL AS OTHER CAPTURED SOVIET EQUIPMENT COULD WELL HAVE BEEN PROVIDED BY ISRAEL.
LEWIS

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NNN

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